46

NEW PROPOSITIONS FROM THE ARMIE, PROPOUNDED

By Cornet *JOYCE* (who lately guarded His Majesties Person from *Holmby*) to all free Commoners within the Kingdome of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*.

Wherein is more fully set forth,

Their further Resolution and Proceedings, concerning the Kings Majesties Royall Person, the preservation of this Nation, and touching every member that challenges an interest in this KINGDOME.

Whereunto is annexed,

The Copy of another Letter sent from the Kings most Excellent Majesty, and read in the High and Honourable Court of Parliament.

Printed for the use and satisfaction of the whole Kingdome.

London, Printed for *Robert Ellson*, July 17. 1647.

The Kings Majesties last Message, to His Highnesse, James Duke of York.

SIR,

TIme being my greatest favourite, and the proceedings of this object of time, the chiefe supporter of my ensuing intelligence, I shall here (according to your desire, represent unto you, some particulars very remarkable, now in disputation betwixt the King, Parliament, and Army, together with a brief summary, (or Copy) of the Kings Majesties last Desires, communicated to his Son, *James* Duke of *York*, written by his Majesties own hand; which was, (as we heare,) presented to His Highnesse, by the Right Honourable, *Algernon Piercy*, Earle of *Northumberland*; the Copy, or effect whereof followeth; beginning in these words, *viz.*

IAMES,

I *Desire and do earnestly request, that you may be permitted with your Brother and Sister, to come downe to*

see me, and therefore I desire you to ask leave for the obtaining of the same, to accompany me for the space of two or three dayes; And because it is my earnest desire to see you, I shall be willing, (rather then not to enjoy this happinesse, that you may be permitted to come to dine with me, at some convenient place, and to returne the same night, it may be some will conjecture, that you will be drawn away by the Army, but for your safe returne again, the Generall Sir Thomas Fairfax *and all his Officers hath engaged themselves for it. So God blesse you.*

Your loving Father
CHARLES R.

Causan, the 4. of July, 1647.

Since the presenting of this Letter to his Highnesse, and acquainting both Houses with the same; we have received Intelligence, that the said honourable Court, hath gave their assent and resolved, that His Highnesse the Duke of *York*, together with the rest of the Kings Children, shall have leave to go down to see their Royall Father, the King, there to reside the space of two dayes; and we heare that the Right Honourable the Earle of Northumberland is to attend them down.

Having no more (at present) to communicate unto you, concerning the King and his Princely issue, I shall reserve you to the inclosed paper, and remain

Causan, Inly 16. 1647.

Your affectionate friend,
John Willis.

A

A Copy of a Paper, containing 4. Propositions, set forth by Cornet Joyce, in behalfe of the Kingdome.

I. Now fellow Commoners, you who are borne to as large priviledges and immunities as any people on the earth, which you may all challenge as your birth-right, lest you should be induced through the subtilty of some litigious Lawyers, or through the policy and specious pretences of any man whatsoever to judge our action of guarding his Majesty from *Holmby* to be illegall, and contrary to the trust reposed in us, assure your selves that action of ours was not a rash precipitant enterprise, as some say, but challenges the law of Nature, Nations, this Kingdome, and our Commissioners derived from the Parliament for its foundation.

The lyw of Nature vindicates us, for as in a naturall body which is composed of sundry members, may lawfully seek its own preservation as from inward distempers, or outward dangers that threaten its ruine, so likewise may a politicall body do, if the head be in danger, the foot ought to run, and the hand to act for its preservation, and in this endeavour every member particularly, as well as joyntly, is obliged, so that if one hand be cut off, one foot lame, one eye forth, the other hand foot and eye are not hereby disingaged, but the more firmely bound to put forth their utmost powers for the bodies fence.

II. The Law of Nations warrants us, every Nation inviolably maintaining this, that every member in

in the Nation ought to preserve the Nation as much as in him lyes; It is a universall principle, *non nobis solum nati sumus, &c.* We are not born for our selves alone; but the *Country* in which we live challenges an interest in us, this principle made many rejoyce in dying, esteeming it, *dulce & decorum pro patria mori.*

3. *The Law of this Kingdome* (by which we may expect to stand or fall) secures us in this Kingdome, we have this *Maxime*, that *Solus populi is suprema lex*, The safety of the people is the supremest law; this was the hinge we moved upon, the Kingdomes safety was endangered, and without a speedy application of a timely preservative was likely to be consumed: the best preservative we could see, was the security of his Majesties person, which our act hath effected. Whose enemies are so dull, and whose understanding is so stupified & sottishly blind, but may remember and know what a sad disaster hath befallen the Kingdome, in the expence of so much blood and treasure, by the surprising of his Majesties Person in the late

late warres? who can but know, had they not had his person for their designes had proved abortive: We well know there was a designe to seize on his Majesty, to raise a new Army, and unnaturally to involve this Kingdome in its own blood, and so to render our latter end miserably worse then our beginning, but this we thought our selves bound to prevent if possible, which we still judge and doubt not to prove it, and is yet lawfull for us to doe. As the King is by the law of this Kingdome bound to govern and secure us according to the Law, so are wee engaged to secure his Person against the violaters of the Law, which we have, through the blessing of God accomplished, Our end was not his enthrallment, bondage and ruine, as by our actions may appear, but his safety, and the Kingdoms preservation, which otherwise we justly fear, had both been endangered; suppose the King through ignorance of traitors intention to destroy His Person or His Kingdome, should expose himself to the mercy of him that sought his life, do you imagine it would be treasonable for

any